

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed on February 8, 2005. However, Applicant notes that the Examiner has crossed out the reference listed thereon.

Applicant notes that on April 7, 2005, in a teleconference with Applicant's undersigned representative the Examiner agreed that this was in error, and that the reference will be considered.

Therefore, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner initial and return the February 8, 2005 Form PTO/SB/08 A & B so as to clearly indicate that the listed reference has been considered.

Drawings:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed with the present application have been approved.

Examiner Interview:

Applicant further thanks the Examiner for conducting an interview with Applicant's undersigned representative on June 28, 2005, and the Interview Summary dated July 20, 2005. Applicant's undersigned representative has reviewed the Examiner's comments therein, and

agrees with the description of the Substance of the Interview. Therefore, no additional comments are provided.

Claim Amendments:

Further, pursuant to the suggestion made by the Examiner during the above interview, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the claimed invention.

Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendment has been made to merely clarify the claimed invention and is not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claim in any way.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-15 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1-15:

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Reference No. JP-09-298,673 to Maeda. However, as discussed during the above referenced interview, and agreed to by the Examiner, Maeda fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Namely, as discussed, Maeda fails to disclose at least the totaling unit of the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicant awaits the results of the Examiner's further search and consideration.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number: 09/744,768

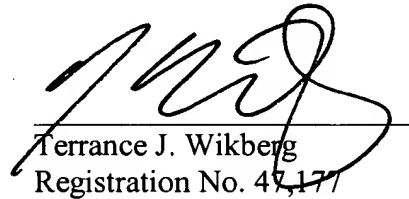
Our Ref: Q62125
Art Unit: 2615

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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